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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

LE, BRIAN Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/685,867

Applicant(s)

HAUSSECKER ET AL.

Examiner

Brian Q. Le

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03/09/2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3, 14-23, and 27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, 4-13, 24-26, and 28-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/09/2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see "Remarks/Arguments", filed 03/09/2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-2, 4-7, 12-13, 24-26 and 28-29 under 35 U.S.C 102(b) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Aksay et al. U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0023024.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-2, 4-7, and 12-13, 24-26 and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kley U.S. Patent No. 6,396,054 and Aksay et al. U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0023024.

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Regarding claim 1, Kley teaches a method comprising:

a) alignment an object on a surface by molecular combing (column 16, lines 50-60 where object is positioning on the x,y plane (aligning object) on a surface (diamond coated surface) (column 16, lines 15-20) by molecular combing (column 17));

b) imaging the object by at least two different modalities (different modes) of scanning probe microscopy (SPM) (column 2, lines 24-28) to obtain data for one or more properties of the object (metric measurements) (column 2, lines 50-51);

c) analyzing the data using a model-based analysis using one or more models of physical structures of known objects (topography) (column 4, lines 63-67);

c) estimating the values of one or more parameters from the data analysis (AFM and STM measurements) (column 10, lines 15-16); and

d) fusing the estimated parameters to form a parameter-based characterization of the object (column 19, lines 20-50).

However, Kley does not explicitly teach aligning an object in a parallel manner on a surface. Aksay teaches a method wherein aligning an object (surfactant tubules) in a parallel manner on a surface (FIG. 9. and page 5, [0060]). Modifying Kley according to Aksay would be able to align objects in parallel so that microscopic grain boundaries can be clearly imaged and distinct from one another (page 5, [0063]). This would improve processing and therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art to modify Kley according to Aksay.

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For claim 2, Kley teaches the method of claim 1, wherein parameter fusion is based on the model of the physical structure of the object (gathering data/producing data) (column 19, lines 20-50).

Regarding claim 4, Kley also teaches the method further comprising identifying the object (structure identification) (column 19, lines 14-17).

For claim 5, Kley discloses the method further comprising comparing the fused parameters with parameters determined from known subjects to identify an occurrence of a known object (topography)(column 4, lines 65-67).

Regarding claim 6, Kley (as discussed in claim 1) teaches the SPM imaging includes at least two modalities selected from the group consisting of scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) (column 2, lines 24-37).

For claim 7, Kley shows the method wherein the object is a biomolecule (semiconductor material) (column 13, lines 65-67 through column 14, line 1).

For claim 12, Kley also teaches the method further comprising known biomolecule structures to obtain ranges of parameters for each type of biomolecule (column 13, lines 60-67).

Regarding claim 13, Grand further teaches the method wherein the parameter ranges for known biomolecules are used in estimating the parameters (column 14, lines 25-32).

For claim 24, please refer back to claims 1 and 14 for teachings and explanations. In addition, Kley further teaches controller (FIG. 26, “controller”, element 114) to control the operation of the scanning probe microscope, memory (FIG. 26, “memory”, element 124) to include one or more characterizations of known structures, and a surface for attachment (column 16, lines 15-20).

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For claim 25, please refer back claim 5 for the teachings and explanations.

Regarding claim 26, Kley discloses the system wherein the characterizations of known structures are used to analyze a set of SPM images (column 4, lines 63-67 through column 5, 5-16).

For claim 28, please refer back to claim 5 for the teachings and explanations.

For claim 29, please refer to claim 1 for teachings and explanations. In addition, Kley further teaches step of analyzing images and reanalyzing the data (column 4, lines 63-67; column 7, lines 5-10; column 11, lines 60-67).

7. Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kley U.S. Patent No. 6,396,054 and Aksay et al. U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0023024, as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Grand et al. "Epitaxial growth of copper phthalocyanine monolayers on Ag(111)", Surface Science, vol. 366, no. 3, 1 November 1996.

Regarding claim 8, Kley does not explicitly teach the method wherein the parameters are estimated by level set techniques, PDE (partial differential equation) techniques. Grand teaches the method wherein the parameters are estimated by level set techniques, PDE (partial differential equation) techniques (page 404, column 1, 3rd paragraph). Modifying Kley's method of utilizing scanning probe microscopy according to Grand would be able to use partial differential equation as an estimation tool in estimating parameters. This would improve processing and therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kley according to Grand.

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For claim 9, Grand also teaches a method further comprising embedding the techniques in a probabilistic estimation framework (Page 405, column 1, last 15 lines and page 406, column 1, 1st 15 lines).

Regarding claim 10, Grand teaches the method further comprising classifying the subject by applying vector quantization, support vector machines (FIG. 7). Modifying Kley's method of utilizing scanning probe microscopy according to Grand would be able to further classify fused parameter. This would improve processing and therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kley according to Grand.

Referring claim 11, Grand teaches the method further comprising using known biomolecule structures to generate training sets of data (page 405, 1st column, last 10 lines).

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CONCLUSION

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Q. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-7424. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M - 5:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu can be reached on 571-272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Brian Le
September 7, 2006